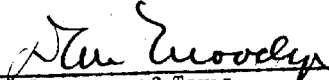


April 4, 1927.

I hereby veto Senate Bill Number 116, being "An Act to amend Article 3936 of the Revised Civil Statutes of 1925 of the State of Texas by making the fees of office for the constables more nearly conform to the fees allowed the sheriffs of the State, and declaring an emergency".

This bill attempts to increase the fees payable to constables for certain services rendered in civil litigation. The existing fee bill fixes reasonable compensation for the various services required of constables. The major portion of the constables' work in civil cases arises in suits pending in courts of justices of the peace. The jurisdiction of the justice court is limited to litigation of civil cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed in value the sum of two hundred dollars. The amount involved in the litigation has something to do with the amount of costs which the litigants can afford to pay in the particular case. In many cases where the value of the subject matter of the suit is small it is hardly worth while to bring suit because of the probable costs and other expense. Citizens of this State sometimes forego the prosecution of their suits because of the expense of litigation. I do not believe that the increase provided by this bill is justified, or that citizens having business in the justice courts should be called upon to pay higher costs than those now imposed.

For the reasons stated the bill is vetoed.


Governor of Texas.